

# RURAL DISTRICT OF THEDWASTRE.

## REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1905.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
**Thedwastre Rural District Council.**

12TH JANUARY, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Second Annual Report on the Health of the District, for the year ending 31st December, 1905.

### **Vital Statistics.**

I have estimated the population of this District to the middle of 1905 as 8895, and have based the following Statistics on this number.

**Birth Rate,**  
26.7 per 1000.  
The number of Births registered during the year was 238 (127 boys and 111 girls); this gives a Birth Rate of 26.7 per 1000; compared with 22.6 per 1000 last year, and an average of 24.6 per 100 for the previous seven years.

This Rate for the East Stow District was 23.4 per 1000.

**Death Rate,**  
16.0 per 1000.  
There were 138 Deaths registered during the year, viz.: 74 males and 64 females; amongst the Deaths occurring in the Workhouse, six were of persons belonging to this District, and these, added to the above, give the corrected number of 144, equal to a Death Rate of 16.0 per 1000; compared with 16.8 last year, and an average of 14.9 for the previous seven years.

The Death Rate for the East Stow District was 14.1 per 1000.

**Infant Mortality,**  
96 per 1000 Births.  
Of the total number of Deaths, 23 were of infants under one year of age, (see Table V) which gives an Infant Mortality of 96.6 per 1000 Births; compared with 85 last year, and an average of 85 for the previous seven years.

The Infant Mortality for East Stow District was 144 per 1000 Births.

**Zymotic Death Rate.**  
0.3 per 1000.  
There were three Deaths from the 7 principal Zymotic Diseases, viz: two from Measles, and one from Whooping Cough.

This gives a Zymotic Death Rate of 0.3 per 1000; compared with 0.6 per 1000 last year.

This Rate for the East Stow District was 0.3 per 1000.

**Other Deaths.**  
Amongst the other Deaths (see Table IV.) occurring during the year were 13 from Phthisis, compared with 10 last year; 11 from Cancer, compared with 15 last year; 28 from Diseases of the Respiratory organs, compared with 18 last year; 17 from Heart Disease, compared with 21 last year; 3 were due to accidents; and 16 were returned as due to old age.

The most noticeable points about the above Statistics are the increase in the Birth Rate, it being 2 per 1000 over the average for the previous 7 years (see Table I.); the increase of the Death Rate about the same proportion, which is hardly a matter of congratulation, and the comparatively low Infant Mortality and Zymotic Death Rate.

### **Infectious Diseases.**

There were 18 notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year, compared with 41 last year and 55 the year before. (See Table III.).

The cases were as follows:—

Diphtheria 8; compared with 5 last year.

Erysipelas 2; compared with 8 last year.

Scarlet Fever 8; compared with 25 last year.

There were no cases of Enteric Fever notified in this District; also neither in Stowmarket nor East Stow.



The Diphtheria cases occurred at Norton, Elmswell and Walsham.

The cases of Erysipelas occurred at Norton and Walsham.

The cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at Norton, Stowlangtoft and Langham.

Wherever insanitary conditions were discovered in connection with these cases, they will be found notified under the head of each Village.

Outbreaks of Measles occurred during the year at Woolpit and Wattisfield and Hessett, which interfered with the School attendance in each case; in consequence the Schools were closed at Woolpit for 3 weeks, from February 1st, by the Council acting under my advice; at Wattisfield the Schools were closed by the Managers for some weeks in May, and at Hessett for 3 weeks, by order of the Council.

Owing to the outbreak of Diphtheria at Norton and the prevalence of "Sore Throats" amongst the children of this Village, the Council on my recommendation closed the school for three weeks.

Visits of Inspection.

Special Visits of Inspection were made to the different parts of the District during the year; 18 notices were served on owners or occupiers to abate nuisances; 15 of these nuisances have been abated and 3 remain in abeyance.

Details of these Visits will be found under the head of the Separate Villages.

Factory Act.

With regard to the Factory Act, no action has at present been taken by the Council.

Water Supply.

The Sub-soil of the District being heavy clay, ponds are very common and are largely used for domestic purposes; drinking water is mostly obtained from shallow wells, with a few deep wells in the chalk.

The following details have reference to the various Villages in the District, the numbers in the brackets to the population at the last census, and the area in acres:

**ASHFIELD MAGNA (375; 1548).**

There was 1 Death reported from this village, due to accident; compared with 8 last year.

There were 3 Births.

As last year, no case of Infectious Disease was notified.

This village was visited officially 7 times during the year; a nuisance caused by defective drains was reported and has since been abated. A new pump had to be provided for the Council's water supply in November.

**BADWELL ASH (356; 1548).**

There were 9 Deaths; compared with 4 last year; one was of an infant under 1 year of age, and six were of persons over 70.

There were 8 Births.

As last year no case of Infectious Disease was reported.

Several official visits were made, but no sanitary defects reported.

**BEYTON (351; 644).**

There were 8 Deaths (one occurring in the Workhouse); compared with 1 last year; one was caused by Phthisis and two were of persons over 80 years of age.

There were 7 Births, compared with 10 last year.

No case of Infectious Disease was notified.

This Village was officially visited on six occasions and the following sanitary defect reported:—

A nuisance was caused by the overflow from a cesspool flooding a ditch by the side of the public road, the owner was served with the usual notice and the cesspool was cleaned out and new drain constructed, tested by the Inspector and passed as satisfactory.

**DRINKSTONE (382; 2196).**

There were 5 Deaths, compared with 10 last year; one was of an infant under one year of age, and two were of persons over 70.

There were 10 Births, compared with 8 last year.

No case of Infectious Disease was notified.

This Village was officially visited on 6 occasions and the following sanitary defects reported:—

Two cottages were found to be in a filthy condition, and the occupiers were served with notice to have them cleaned, which was done.

In September water had to be carted for domestic purposes as the usual supply had fallen short of the requirements.

### ELMSWELL (858; 2089).

There were 16 Deaths; compared with 14 last year.

Four were of infants under one year of age and four of persons over 70. Three were caused by Pneumonia and one by Phthisis. There were 22 Births.

One case of Diphtheria was notified.

This Village was officially visited on 6 occasions and the following sanitary defects reported:—

The sewage from two cottages was found to be running into a ditch from which animals on the adjoining properties had to drink the polluted water; notice was served on the owner and the nuisance abated.

In November the catch-pits connected with the Council's drains were cleaned out.

Two samples of water from new cottages were analysed and passed as fit for domestic purposes.

### FELSHAM (363; 1654)

There were 3 Deaths (one occurring in the Workhouse); compared with 2 last year; two were caused by Phthisis and the other was of a person over 80 years of age.

There were 12 Births, compared with 7 last year.

No case of Infectious Disease was reported.

The water to a new cottage on examination was not found to be good enough, but on digging a new well allowing for filtration, the water after analysing was passed.

No insanitary conditions were reported.

### GEDDING (97; 494).

There was one Death (of a person over 85 years of age); compared with one last year.

There were 2 Births; compared with 4 last year.

No case of Infectious Diseases was notified.

No insanitary conditions were reported.

### HESSETT (381; 1604).

There were 5 Deaths; compared with 4 last year; two were of infants under one year of age, and two were of persons over 70.

There were 9 Births; compared with 7 last year.

No case of Infectious Disease was reported.

The water to the new Rectory was analysed and found to be free from organic pollution and passed.

This village was visited officially on 4 occasions and the following sanitary defects reported:—

The drains from a farm house being blocked, the owner was served with the usual notice, and on examination the drains were found to have a fall of 7 inches in the wrong direction, and were reconstructed.

In December the School was closed by the order of the Council for 3 weeks on account of an outbreak of Measles; the attendance having gone below 50 per cent.

### HINDERCLAY 261; 1488).

There were 3 Deaths; compared with one last year. Two were of persons over 78 years of age. There were six Births.

No case of Infectious Diseases was notified.

No insanitary conditions were reported.

### HUNSTON (127; 960).

No Deaths occurred in the Village during the year, compared with 3 last year.

There was one Birth.

No case of Infectious Disease was notified.

No insanitary conditions were reported.

### LANGHAM (154; 970).

There was one Death, of a person over 70 years of age, compared with none last year.

There were 3 Births.

There were 2 cases of Scarlet Fever notified, in the same house.

Three visits of inspection were made in reference to these cases, but no insanitary conditions were notified.

#### NORTON (742; 2460).

There were 13 Deaths, compared with 13 last year; one occurred in the Workhouse, two were of infants under one year of age, and 5 were of persons over 70. One Death was caused by Whooping Cough, and three by Phthisis.

There were 16 Births.

Six Cases of Diphtheria were notified, one of Erysipelas and three of Scarlet Fever.

A great number of official visits were made to this Village and the following sanitary defects reported:—

In connection with a house pump used for domestic purposes it was found that the waste water ran back into the well, the owner was served with usual notice and the defect remedied. In June, complaints were received about the water supply, and 6 houses (33 people) were found to be without any fit for use. In connection with 2 cottages the sanitary arrangements were found to be too near the back doors and the vaults over full, causing a nuisance, the owner served with the usual notice to make new the vaults and clean out and fill up the old ones.

*Re* the cases of Infectious Diseases:—

One case of Scarlet Fever was imported.

In regard to one of the cases of Diphtheria, many serious sanitary defects were found. In fact the whole drainage was defective and the well water consequently polluted; the drains have now been properly constructed and a new well made.

#### RATTLESDEN (894; 3299).

There were 18 Deaths; compared with 24 last year; three were of infants under one year of age, and six of persons over 70. Two were caused by Phthisis.

There were 24 Births, compared with 27 last year.

No case of Infectious Diseases was notified.

This Village was officially visited on 10 occasions and the following sanitary defects reported:—

A nuisance caused by horse slaughterer allowing a carcase to become decomposed 11 yds. from house, the usual steps were taken to immediately remedy this.

Sanitary arrangements to 4 cottages were found to be in a dilapidated condition, the owners were served with the usual notice and the nuisance was abated.

Well to cottage found to be polluted by house drains, the usual steps were taken and the nuisance abated.

In July the Council's ponds had to be cleaned.

#### RICKINGHALL INFERIOR (381; 1981).

There were 10 Deaths; compared with one last year. Three were of infants under one year of age and three were of persons over 70. One of the Deaths was due to Erysipelas, (I had received no notice of this case), and one was due to an accident.

There were 12 Births.

No case of Infectious Disease was notified.

Various official visits were made to the village, and the following sanitary defects reported:—

In connection with one cottage the sanitary arrangements were in a very dilapidated condition and the owner was served with notice to remedy same.

Another cottage was reported as very dirty and in this case the occupier was required to thoroughly clean same.

#### STOWLANGTOFT (158; 1478).

There were 2 Deaths; compared with two last year, one of these deaths was of an infant under one year of age.

There were 3 Births.

Three cases of Scarlet Fever were reported, in two houses on either side of the School; every precaution was taken and the School kept very clean and disinfectant freely used.

In connection with one of these cottages the cesspool was very badly constructed and the owner was served with notice to remedy the same.

#### THURSTON (600; 2223).

There were 11 Deaths (one occurring in the Workhouse); compared with 12 last year. One was of an infant under one year of age, and 3 were of persons over 70.

Two Deaths were due to Phthisis.

There were 14 Births; compared with 12 last year.

No case of Infectious Disease was notified.

No insanitary conditions were reported.

#### **TOSTOCK (286; 952).**

There were 3 Deaths (two occurring in the Workhouse); compared with 5 last year. One of these was of a person over 70.

There were 10 Births; compared with 2 last year.

No case of Infectious Disease was notified.

No insanitary conditions were reported.

#### **WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS (1038; 2817).**

There were 16 Deaths, compared with 19 last year. One was of an infant under one year of age, and eight were of persons over 70.

One Death was due to Puerperal Fever (notified last year), and two were caused by Pneumonia, both young people.

There were 31 Births.

Two notifications of Infectious Disease were received, one of Diphtheria, and one of Erysipelas.

No sanitary defects were reported in connection with these cases.

This Village was officially visited on 8 occasions and the following sanitary defects reported:—

The cesspools to two cottages within 12 feet of back door; the owners were served with notice and the vaults removed further away.

#### **WATTISFIELD (408; 1530).**

There were 5 Deaths, compared with 4 last year. One was of an infant under one year, and one of a person over 70 years of age.

There were 12 Births.

No case of Infectious Disease was notified.

Measles was very prevalent in May, and the Managers closed the School for some weeks, without reporting to the Council.

This Village was officially visited on several occasions and the following sanitary defects reported:

The Drains were not trapped in connection with 3 cottages; owner was served with the usual notices and the order has been given for the work to be done.

#### **WOOLPIT (863; 1881).**

There were 14 Deaths; compared with 12 last year.

Three of these were of infants under one year of age, and two were of persons over 70.

Two of these Deaths were caused by Measles, one was due to an Accident, and one was caused by Phthisis.

There were 26 Births; compared with 18 last year.

No case of Infectious Disease was notified.

In January owing to an outbreak of Measles 61 children out of 170 on the books were away from school, this outbreak spread from an infected child, from Ipswich, attending a school treat.

Owing to the scattered character of the Village and the probability of School being the only place where the children met, I advised the Council to close it for 3 weeks.

This Village was officially visited on many occasions the following sanitary defects were reported:—

The public drains were found to be defective, the cesspits not being water tight, and were re-constructed.

In conclusion, I have to acknowledge the help I have received from the Sanitary Inspector, and to thank the Chairman and Members for the considerate manner in which they have received my suggestions during the last half-year.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHAS. W. LOW, M.B., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

Table I shows the estimated population, and Birth and Death Rates for the last 7 years.

Table III shows the cases of Infectious Diseases notified, and particulars as to age.

Table IV shows the causes of, and ages at Death during the year.

Table V gives the details of the Infant Mortality.

TABLE I.  
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.		
				Under 1 year age.		At all Ages.					
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registrd.	Number.	Rate.*		Number.	Rate.*	
1898	9195	247	25.7	30	121	149	16.1	6	155	16.8	
1899	9155	250	27.1	21	84	111	12.1	10	121	13.2	
1900	9115	241	26.4	10	41	124	13.5	10	134	14.6	
1901	9055	255	28.1	18	70	122	13.4	13	135	14.9	
1902	9015	217	24.0	32	147	152	16.8	3	155	17.1	
1903	8975	254	28.3	13	51	98	10.9	2	100	11.1	
1904	8935	202	22.6	17	85	144	16.2	7	151	16.8	
Averages for years 1895-1904		238	24.6	20	85	128	14.1	7	134	14.9	
1905	8895	238	26.7	23	96.6	138	15.5	6	144	16.0	

\* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) .. 34126.

Total population at all ages at Census of 1901 ... .. 9075.

Number of inhabited houses .. .. .. 2113.

Average number of persons per house .. .. .. 4.7.

TABLE III.  
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1905.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.				
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.			
		1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65
Diphtheria ... ...	9	3	3	1	2
Erysipelas ... ...	6	1	1	2	2
Scarlet Fever ...	10		9		1
Totals ... ...	25	4	13	3	5

TABLE IV.  
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards
Measles ... ... ... ...	2	1	1				
Whooping-cough ... ... ...	1		1				
Enteritis ... ... ... ...	2	2					
Puerperal Fever ... ... ...	1				1		
Erysipelas ... ... ... ...	1					1	
Phthisis ... .. ... ...	13				3	8	2
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	11					2	9
Bronchitis ... ... ... ...	8					1	7
Pneumonia ... ... .. ...	10	2	1		1	3	3
Alcoholic Cirrhosis of Liver ...	2					1	1
Premature Birth ... ... ...	7	7					
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1					1	
Heart Diseases .. ... ...	17				2	4	11
Accidents ... ... ... ...	3	1	1			1	
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis ...	1				1		
Old Age ... ... ... ...	16						16
All other causes .. ... ...	48	10	2	3		10	23
All Causes ... ... ... ...	144	23	6	3	8	32	72

TABLE V.  
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1905.  
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	7-8 Months	10-11 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
ALL CAUSES certified .. ..	7	1	2	2	12	2	2	1	3	1	2	23
Measles .. .. .. ..												1
Enteritis .. .. .. ..								1	1			
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh										1		
Premature Birth .. .. ..	3	1	1	1	6	1						
Injury at Birth .. .. ..	1				1							
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..	1				1		2		1			
Convulsions .. .. .. ..	2				2							
Pneumonia .. .. .. ..										1	1	
Other Causes .. .. ..				1	1	2	1					

Births in the year, legitimate ..	..	..	..	234.
Births in the year, illegitimate ..	..	..	..	4.
Population, estimated to middle of 1905 ..	..	..	..	8895.
Deaths from all Causes at all Ages ..	..	..	..	144.